

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

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Northeast Ag Expo set for July 29



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Five Perquimans students awarded scholarships



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Lions Club helps visually impaired student

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Councilman Quentin Jackson (left) is restrained by a Perquimans County sheriff's deputy during a confrontation between Jackson and a Hertford citizen at a Town Council meeting Monday, July 12. Also reacting are Councilman Frank Norman (back left) and Mayor Earnell Brown (back right).



SCREEN GRAB FROM VIDEO

Citizen files charge against Jackson

Morrissey claims councilor threatened him at meeting

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — A Perquimans County businessman has filed a complaint with a county magistrate charging Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson with communicating threats.

Filed Thursday, Patrick Morrissey's complaint stems from a heated con-



JACKSON

"He said he would knock me out or put me to sleep," Morrissey said Friday, referring to Jackson.

Jackson denied any wrongdoing when reached

frontation between Morrissey and Jackson at the Monday, July 12, Hertford Town Council meeting.

by phone. He said he is glad the meeting is recorded on video because the recording will support his account of events.

"We'll just have to see that justice is served," Jackson said. "I deny all of it and can't wait for my day in court."

Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown said she abruptly adjourned Monday's council meeting for safety reasons. She said "words were exchanged" but she isn't clear what was said by whom, or

when, in the last moments of the meeting.

Video from the meeting shows Jackson criticizing Brown for not asking citizens to refrain from shouting during the meeting's public comment period.

Several members of the public addressed the council at the meeting. Lenora Brown objected to a block of Hyde Park being renamed "Black Lives Matter." She said citizens who

See JACKSON, A2

Cooper brings vaccination effort to Gates

Governor thanked residents for getting COVID-19 vaccine at clinic

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

GATESVILLE — Gov. Roy Cooper continued his statewide push to get adults and children 12 and older vaccinated against COVID-19 with a visit to a vaccination clinic at the Gates County Health Department Thursday, July 15.

"Sickness and death can be prevented with vaccination," Cooper said in brief remarks outside the health department offices.

Across the state about 83 percent of adults 65 and older, and nearly 60 percent of all adults, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, Cooper said.

"That's good news," he said. "But there still are too many folks who aren't vaccinated."

One group working to improve the vaccination rate is Disability Rights North Carolina, which sponsored Thursday's clinic in Gatesville.

Curtis Hill, who is Disability Rights NC's project director for Project ACCESS (All Communities Count Equitably for Safety and Support), said barriers to vaccination include challenges such as transportation but also "vaccine hesitancy."

Hill said in an interview Thursday that vaccine hesitancy is a particular challenge in rural counties across eastern North Carolina, including his home county of Columbus.

"You've got people that are just not going to take it because it's a political thing," Hill said.

But people can move beyond politically based hesitancy when they hear from a friend, or someone else they trust, that the vaccine is safe and effective.

"We need to get factual information to people," Hill said.

Gates Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Althea Riddick said she has appreciated Cooper's leadership during the pandemic.



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Gov. Roy Cooper speaks at a vaccination clinic at the Gates County Health Department in Gatesville on Thursday, July 15.

"But we are not through," she said. "We must get everyone vaccinated."

As of Thursday morning, only 3,870 Gates residents — 33% — had received a first shot of vaccine while 3,515 — 30% — had received both doses.

Freeman thanked Cooper for supporting public health.

Answering a question about making it easier to get vaccinated, Cooper noted the simplicity of Thursday's clinic and said "they've made it easier here in Gates County."

Cooper said people who are hesitant to get vaccinated should talk to their doctor and talk to trusted

See COOPER, A3



Gov. Roy Cooper thanks a citizen for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine during a drive-through clinic Thursday, July 15 at the Gates County Health Department.

6 seek council seats in Hertford

McDonald, White file in Winfall; incumbents not running

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Incumbent Hertford town councilors Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman III will be on the ballot alongside former councilor Gracie Felton and first-time candidates Connie Brothers, Sandra Anderson and Martha Borders in a quest for two seats on the Hertford Town Council.

In Winfall, Valery McDonald and Preston White have filed for the two open council seats.

Incumbent Winfall councilors Kenneth Rominger and Arnetta Ormond did not file to seek re-election.

The filing period for the November election in both towns ended at noon on Friday.

Borders, who moved to Hertford after retiring from careers in retail management and mortgage banking and her own fiber arts business, said she is

See COUNCIL, A3



ANDERSON



BORDERS

Independent pharmacies face new market pressures

Woodard: Low prescription med dispensing fee one of challenges

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

In the wake of the announcement that Todd's Pharmacy is selling its

stores to CVS Health, independent pharmacies in the area say they are hanging on amid rising economic pressure.

Charles Woodard, owner of Woodard's Pharmacy in Hertford, said it was hard to see the Todd's pharmacies close.

"There's just fewer of us," Woodard said.

The Daily Advance reported that Todd's has sold its two locations in Elizabeth City and their pharmacies in Moyock and Camden to CVS Health. All four locations will close between Aug. 10 and Aug. 12.

Todd's principal owner William Owens told The Advance that he

and his partners decided to sell the pharmacy's two locations in Elizabeth City and sites in Camden and Moyock to CVS Health because it is becoming harder and harder to compete with the large retail pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens and Walmart.

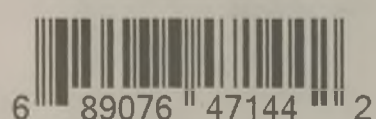
"Community retail pharmacy has changed a lot over the last 10 years," Owens said. "The long-term trajectory is not in a good way and a decision was made. In a perfect world the initial plan was to continue to run everything with my junior partners but that doesn't look to be an option. Every year, it gets a little bit

See PHARMACIES, A3



Andrea Moore, left, poses with Woodard's Pharmacy owner Charles Woodard at the Hertford drugstore Friday, July 2.

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Vol. 87, No. 30
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